

## N.A.C.C. MEETING

# Aborigines leave before Minister

Almost half of the elected delegates to the annual meeting of the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee in Canberra walked out on the first day yesterday shortly before the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Viner, was due to leave the meeting.

The walk-out came after a motion by a delegate, Mr Phillip Hall, of Sydney, based on dissatisfaction with the Government's attitude to land rights and compensation for Aborigines, and calling for all delegates to "withdraw entirely from the farcical conference with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs".

The motion opened with the wording, "In view of proposed cuts both in our (NACC's) powers and in the pliancy that has been offered to us as compensation for our stolen land I can only demonstrate my protest by withdrawing entirely from this farcical conference with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and call on everybody to do the same".

Mr Hall called on "my brothers and sisters in the NACC to instruct our solicitors to take action in court, in the World Court if necessary, to grant a proper hearing of our just needs".

Mr Viner said after the walk-out that he had been sorry to see it happen because there was work to be done and all those who stayed obviously were prepared to do it.

About 25 members of the 41-member committee stayed at the meeting at St Johns Priory, Forrest, but many of these said later that they knew nothing of the motion beforehand and had not understood at the time Mr Hall had read it to the meeting.

Those who walked out returned after the Minister departed and the meeting was told that the NACC had been promised financial backing and free legal representation, from Mr John Edwards, a Canberra lawyer, if it were to go to court on the land rights and compensation question.

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the committee support was to come from several groups including the South Coast Trades and Labour Council.

Shortly after the committee had re-assembled after Mr Viner's departure, an element of the meeting strongly criticised the actions of those who had left.

Mr Hall repeated the wording of the motion and, calling Mr Viner a "racist pig", advocated the committee agree to take court action against the Government.